

## **The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation**

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is responsible for protecting and enhancing the quality of the state's air, land and water. It oversees state environmental regulation, management of historic, archaeological and natural resources and manages Tennessee's 53 state parks.

TDEC is led by Commissioner Betsy L. Child, appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen in January 2003. The department includes approximately 3,000 employees across Tennessee.

In addition to the programs that report directly to the commissioner, the department is formally divided into three bureaus, Environment, Parks and Conservation, and Business Services.

### **Commissioner's Office**

**Contact: (615) 532-0109**

The Commissioner's Office oversees all departmental operations. Deputy and assistant commissioners for the Environment Bureau, Parks and Conservation, and Business Services work closely with and report directly to the commissioner. Also reporting directly to the commissioner are the department's general counsel, legislative liaison and communications office.

### **Communications Office**

**Contact: (615) 532-4697**

The Communications Office is responsible for coordinating internal and external TDEC communications. The division includes media relations, the Web team, graphic artists and the *Conservationist Magazine*. The office works with citizens, TDEC staff, other state agencies, environmental and business interest groups and the media to communicate environmental and conservation news and up-to date information on departmental initiatives.

### **Legislative Liaison**

**Contact: (615) 532-0696**

The department's legislative liaison works with the Governor's Office and the General Assembly on legislation that may impact the department and addresses constituent concerns.

### **Office of General Counsel**

**Contact: (615) 532-0131**

The Office of General Counsel serves the commissioner and all staff by providing interpretations of the complex, specialized laws and regulations that TDEC administers. The office handles both offensive and defensive TDEC litigation. When the legislature is in session, TDEC attorneys spend a substantial amount of time preparing administration bills, analyzing all bills that affect the department and drafting amendments.

TDEC attorneys review all regulations being promulgated, which consist of several thousand pages in any single year. TDEC attorneys are also often asked for advice and participation in permitting, enforcement and contacting. Attorneys advise park staff and others on safety and civil rights issues in order to avoid future claims.

**Environment Bureau****Contact: (615) 532-0111**

The TDEC Environment Bureau is comprised of 14 divisions under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Karen Stachowski. The bureau resides in central office in Nashville, as well as in eight environmental assistance centers across Tennessee. The EACs may be reached by calling 1-888-891-TDEC. Callers will be automatically directed to the EAC nearest them.

***Air Pollution Control*****Contact: (615) 532-0554**

The Division of Air Pollution Control is directed by state law to maintain the purity of Tennessee's air resources consistent with the protection of normal health, general welfare and physical property of the people while preserving maximum employment and enhancing the industrial development of the state. The division directly serves 91 counties and oversees and assists in the actions of Davidson, Hamilton, Knox and Shelby counties, which have their own local air pollution control programs.

The division's responsibilities include monitoring air quality, testing emissions, enforcing state law and regulations, establishing emission standards and procedure requirements and issuing construction and operating permits to industry. The Tennessee Air Pollution Control board, appointed by the governor and representing industry, environmental and community interests, adopts regulations, holds hearings and initiates court actions to enforce regulations.

***Archaeology*****Contact: (615) 741-1588**

The Division of Archaeology was created by law in 1970 to survey the state to identify and record archaeological sites; excavate prehistoric and historic sites and protect and preserve such sites; conduct research and encourage public cooperation and responsibility for site preservation; publish archaeological findings in scientific and popular formats and work with other state agencies in the protection and management of archaeological sites on state lands. The division is responsible for protecting and keeping accurate records on all archaeology sites and artifacts on all state lands. It also conducts research, and publishes reports on archaeological subjects. In addition, the division works with all state agencies to ensure that activities do not destroy significant sites. The division provides technical assistance to a variety of customers, and offers assistance on the legal and technical aspects of prehistoric Indian cemetery relocation and related concerns.

***Community Assistance*****Contact: (615) 532-0445**

The Division of Community Assistance provides technical and financial assistance to various communities. Successful implementation of these programs requires strong educational and awareness components. The program manages revolving loan programs to provide low-interest loans to cities, counties, and utility districts for the planning, design, and construction of wastewater and drinking water facilities. The division also administers the solid waste assistance grant program to help communities better manage waste and support reuse and recycling. The division administers a variety of educational and technical assistance programs to promote pollution prevention, including the waste tire program, the used oil program, household hazardous waste, small business assistance and more.

The division manages the Julian R. Fleming Training Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The center serves as the state's environmental training facility. Its major efforts are directed towards water and wastewater operator training and certification.

***DOE Oversight***

***Contact: (865) 481-0995***

The Department of Energy Oversight Division ensures Tennesseans that their health, safety, and environment are being protected during environmental restoration and ongoing activities at the Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation and to assist in cleanup decisions.

The Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) is located in Roane and Anderson counties in East Tennessee. It was established in the early 1940's as part of the Manhattan Project to build the first atomic bomb. In 1989, the ORR was placed on the National Priority List of Superfund sites and is the focus of one of the largest environmental cleanup efforts in history. The Manhattan project and the cold war left a legacy of hazardous, radioactive and mixed waste on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

The site includes three facilities; Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Y-12 Plant, and East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). ORNL still serves as a national lab with current emphasis on both applied energy technologies and basic science research. Y-12 now serves as part of DOE's weapons dismantlement complex and is home to the Centers for Manufacturing Technology. ETTP currently serves as the center of DOE's environmental restoration and waste management activities. Portions of ETTP are being leased as an industrial park for private companies as part of a reindustrialization effort.

Division staff monitor environmental quality and cleanup activities at ORR to ensure compliance with state and federal standards.

***Geology***

***Contact: (615) 532-1500***

The Division of Geology encourages and promotes the prudent development and conservation of Tennessee's geological, energy and mineral resources by developing and maintaining data bases, maps and technical services; providing accurate geologic hazard assessments; promulgating rules and regulations; and disseminating geologic information through publications and educational outreach activities. The division advises other state agencies and federal and local organizations on matters relating to Tennessee geology.

The Division of Geology is the lineal descendent of the first Tennessee Geological Survey that was established in 1831. It is thus one of the oldest geologic service and research organizations in the country.

***Groundwater Protection***

***Contact: (615) 532-0762***

The Division of Ground Water Protection regulates subsurface sewage disposal to ensure that the ground waters of Tennessee are maintained in a safe and usable condition. The division permits, constructs, inspects and approves underground septic systems for wastewater disposal in areas lacking wastewater treatment plants. In cases where soil

conditions are inadequate to support a conventional septic system, the division may recommend an approved alternative system. The division permits construction and inspects repairs made to systems that fail. Staff collect water samples and respond to complaints associated with private water supplies such as springs and wells. The division also performs soil evaluations in order to determine suitability for subsurface sewage systems and provides consultation and project approval for subdivision developments that are to be served by subsurface sewage systems.

### ***Natural Heritage***

***Contact: (615) 532-0431***

The Division of Natural Heritage protects the state's natural biological diversity through identification, conservation and communication. The division is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information (ABI), a consortium of natural heritage programs from each state, and similar programs from Canada to Central and South America. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) initiated all of these programs and continues to provide technical support and cooperation to them.

The division, with a staff of professional biologists, botanists, zoologists, ecologists, natural resource management specialists and data managers, employs highly technical tools to assist its work. These tools include satellite imagery, aerial photography, global positioning satellite devices (GPS), geographic information systems (GIS) and laptop field computers. The division manages a database on the distribution and ecology of rare plants, animals and ecological communities.

The division uses the information it gathers to identify new areas for inclusion in the state's Natural Areas System and other conservation initiatives. DNH staff direct and conduct field surveys of species, natural communities and areas of special concern, as well as conduct workshops and provide technical assistance to state and federal agencies and private groups for use in the management of their lands. The division oversees identification and protection of rare and endangered plants, regulates ginseng harvesting, and provides comments on projects that may impact natural resources to help ensure that decisions are made with full knowledge of the significance and value of the resource.

### ***Radiological Health***

***Contact: (615) 532-0364***

The Division of Radiological Health is responsible for protecting Tennesseans and the environment from the hazards associated with ionizing radiation. The division regulates the use and possession of radioactive materials and radiation producing machines within the state and responds to accidents involving radiation. In addition, the division monitors the environment for radiation, especially around nuclear facilities and other major radioactive material users. Its duties include licensing medical, academic and industrial facilities that possess x-ray equipment, inspecting licensed and registered facilities, performing environmental monitoring and providing emergency response training.

### ***Solid and Hazardous Waste Management***

***Contact: (615) 532-0780***

The Division of Solid Waste Management regulates the processing and disposal of non-hazardous solid waste and the generation, recycling, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste in Tennessee. The division issues permits for different

classes of landfills and ensures their safe management. The division also regulates hazardous waste under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This includes permitting and inspecting hazardous waste storage, recycling, treatment and disposal facilities and registering hazardous wastes, such as household hazardous waste, batteries, used oil and oil filters and more.

### ***Superfund***

***Contact: (615) 532-0900***

The Division of Superfund is responsible for cleaning up inactive hazardous substance sites, administering a fund to clean up contaminated drycleaning sites and working to identify and cleanup sites listed on the National Priority List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites. The NPL is a federal list of sites subject to cleanup directed by the Environmental Protection Agency that may be funded by the national Superfund program.

The division identifies inactive hazardous waste sites, works to identify liable parties, and requires cleanup by those parties of inactive sites. When there is no one willing or able to cleanup a site, the division uses the Hazardous Waste Remedial Action Fund to perform the cleanup. This fund is funded by remedial action fees and by cost recovery from responsible parties. Under the Voluntary Cleanup Oversight and Assistance Program (VOAP), parties who may voluntarily enter into consent agreements to conduct investigations and cleanups of inactive hazardous substance sites with departmental oversight.

The division also oversees cleanup activities at Department of Defense (DOD) facilities and Department of Energy (DOE) sites, except for the Oak Ridge Reservation.

### ***Underground Storage Tanks***

***Contact: (615) 532-0730***

The Division of Underground Storage Tanks is responsible for preventing future petroleum underground storage tank releases and remediating existing petroleum underground storage tank contamination. The division manages the Tennessee Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Fund, which is intended to enable tank owners and operators to satisfy federal financial responsibility requirements. If fund-eligible USTs leak, owners may request reimbursement for the costs of investigation, identification and reasonable and safe cleanup.

### ***Water Pollution Control***

***Contact: (615) 532-0625***

The Division of Water Pollution Control is responsible for protecting the quality of Tennessee's 60,000 stream miles and almost 540,000 lake acres. The division monitors and issues permits for municipal, industrial and other discharges of wastewater to ensure water quality protection. The division inspects facilities, samples discharges for compliance and pursues enforcement as necessary. Activities such as stream channel modifications, wetland alterations or gravel dredging are also regulated by the division. In addition, the division reviews wastewater construction plans and specifications for municipal and industrial facilities.

The division also investigates and takes enforcement action against illegal coal mining activities. The division is responsible for water discharge permitting, mine inspection,

enforcement and administering reclamation bonds and fines for violations for non-coal surface mining activities as well.

Through some 400 sampling stations, the division monitors, analyzes and reports on the quality of Tennessee's water. In addition, a number of specific surveys are conducted, including studies of in-stream biological communities and documentation of contaminant levels in sediment and fish flesh. The division uses this information to issue advisories to the public to inform citizens that fish may not be safe to eat, or water safe to swim.

***Water Supply***

***Contact: (615) 532-0191***

The Division of Water Supply regulates the quality and quantity of drinking water, the construction of non-federal dams, transfers of water from one river basin to another, water withdrawal registration and the licensing of well drillers and pump setters. The division is also charged with developing strategies for protecting ground water, ensuring well-head protection, regulating underground injection of waste and some pesticide management activity.

The division is responsible for supervising construction and operation of public water supplies. It also conducts an enforcement program that requires water suppliers to meet requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to water quality and information reporting. It certifies labs and water suppliers that test drinking water samples, conducts technical surveys of public water supply systems, tests and trains water supply system operators and maintains an accurate database of water supply information. The division also certifies, inspects and approves dams and reservoir projects to assure public safety from dangers of failures.

***West Tennessee River Basin Authority***

***Contact: (731) 784-8173***

The Obion-Forked Deer Basin Authority was established by statute as an agency of state government in 1972. On July 1, 1996, it became attached to the Department of Environment and Conservation and the name was changed to West Tennessee River Basin Authority. The agency is charged with water resources management in the 17-county area drained by the Obion, Forked Deer, and Hatchie River Systems.

**Parks and Conservation****Contact: (615) 532-0022**

The Bureau of Parks and Conservation is led by Deputy Commissioner Jim Fyke. The bureau includes Tennessee State Parks, Recreational Educational Services and the Tennessee Historical Commission. The bureau has a small central office staff in Nashville and includes staff in state parks and other facilities all across Tennessee.

**Recreation Educational Services****Contact: (615) 532-0748**

The Recreation Educational Services Division administers technical, planning and financial assistance services to state, local and private providers of public recreation, as well as encourages the development of recreation systems across the state. The division also manages the State Land Acquisition Program.

**Tennessee Historical Commission****Contact: (615) 532-1550**

The Tennessee Historical Commission encourages the study of Tennessee's history, protects, preserves, interprets, operates, maintains, and administers historic sites and marks important locations, persons, and events in Tennessee history. The division also reviews, comments on and identifies projects that will potentially impact state-owned and non-state-owned historic properties, and is responsible for locating, identifying, recording and nominating to the National Register of Historic Places all properties that meet National Register criteria.

**Tennessee State Parks****Contact: (615) 532-0022**

Tennessee's 53 magnificent state parks offer diverse recreational opportunities for individuals, families, businesses and professional groups. Eight parks are home to resort facilities, which include inns, restaurants, meeting space and golf courses, while many state parks offer visitors a rustic, natural experience. State parks staff provide thousands of educational programs, both within parks and in local communities and schools, every year. State parks protect and provide educational information on Tennessee's plants and wildlife, as well as countless unique natural features.

**Tennessee State Parks Resort Operations****Contact: (615) 532-4580**

This program manages retail operations in Tennessee State Parks including seven resort parks—Fall Creek Falls, Henry Horton, Montgomery Bell, Natchez Trace, Paris Landing, Pickwick Landing, and Reelfoot Lake. These parks provide restaurants, cabins, group lodges, conference centers, marinas, recreational rooms, swimming pools, outdoor sporting facilities and inns. Resort Operations also manages eight golf courses in Tennessee State Parks. Four additional courses, known as The Bear Trace and designed by Jack Nicklaus, are managed by a private entity.

## **Finance and Business Services**

TDEC Finance and Business Services provide support and technical assistance for the daily operation of the department. Under the direction of Assistant Commissioner Larry Lance, finance and business services programs include Fiscal Services, Human Resources, Information Systems, Internal Audit, Space Management and Strategic Planning.

### ***Fiscal Services***

***Contact: (615) 532-0290***

The Division of Fiscal Services provides a full range of financial management and support services for TDEC offices and staff. The division is responsible for preparing the department's budget, procuring goods and services, managing the department's property, managing the department's fleet of motor vehicles, accounts payable, cash management, records and forms management, accounting and reporting for general fund revenues and expenditures, special revenue funds, federal grants and retail operations for state parks.

The Division of Fiscal Services also manages the medical surveillance program to monitor employees who are or may be exposed to hazardous substances in order to ensure that all requirements of OSHA law are met, and works closely with staff from program areas as well as staff from other units of state, local, and federal government to ensure quality services to customers. The division strives to improve accountability to ensure program integrity and compliance with state and federal laws, policies, and regulations.

### ***Human Resources***

***Contact: (615) 532-0200***

The Division of Human Resources is responsible for managing all department personnel transactions, classification and compensation issues, training, recruitment and placement, insurance and employee relations. Human resource support is provided to all divisions, program areas, offices and parks in the department. In addition, staff responds to various inquiries from the public as well as governmental and legislative officials.

### ***Information Systems***

***Contact: (615) 532-0548***

The Division of Information Systems is responsible for providing technical services and solutions to TDEC in support of the department's business strategies. Through the division's participation with the department's Management Advisory Committee (MAC), the long-range goals related to managing and sharing information and information technology in support of business strategic goals are defined. The annual 3-Year Information Systems Plan, developed by the division, provides the technical framework for implementation of these strategic goals.

Information Systems' services fall into five categories: project management for software development and implementation for both small and enterprise-wide systems, technology maximization research and planning, hardware/software acquisition management, liaison work with the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Information Resources network oversight staff and customer support. The division adheres to state and industry-standard software development lifecycle processes for all phases of project management from design and development through automated testing, training and



courseware development. Customer support includes Help Desk support, technical support and oversight of field support.

***Internal Audit***

***Contact: (615) 253-1691***

The Division of Internal Audit is responsible for providing information and support to TDEC management through internal reviews, investigations and audits. The division informs the comptroller of the Treasury annually of its projected audit activities and the results of completed audits completed. The division works with the comptroller on all investigations of fraud, abuse or waste. Additionally, the division notifies federal audit agencies of audit activities as necessary. The division also investigates complaints received through the comptroller of the Treasury's hotline, which is a toll free telephone number to report fraud, waste and abuse. Within TDEC, the division provides an avenue for reporting fraud, waste and abuse of government funds and property.

***Space Management***

***Contact: (615) 532-5227***

This division is responsible for the leasing and managing office space, furnishings, and equipment throughout the state. The division evaluates space use and management, and facilitates space planning when growth or other changes are needed by the department. The program interacts regularly with the Department of General Services regarding office space and routine maintenance, housekeeping and security in state owned facilities. It also works with the Department of Finance and Administration for operations using leased space. In addition, the division operates the Risk Management Program and the Employee Identification Program.

***Strategic Planning***

***Contact: (615) 532-0048***

With the enactment of the Tennessee Government Accountability Act of 2002, the Office of Strategic Planning and the Division of Fiscal Services administer the performance-based budgeting initiative. For FY 2004-2005 and each fiscal year thereafter, the office and the Division of Fiscal Services will coordinate the development of an annual operational plan (referenced in the act as a "strategic plan") and a performance-based budget for the department. The office also oversees additional planning functions that include the Master Plan for State Parks, the Tims Ford Land Management and Disposition Plan implementation process, parks management plans, and the Business Resumption Plan.